



Spring 2005

## Window on Western, 2005, Volume 11, Issue 03

Dee Johnson

*Western Washington University*

Alumni, Foundation, and Public Information Offices, Western Washington University

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# WINDOW

on WESTERN

SPRING 2005

NEWS FOR ALUMNI &amp; FRIENDS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

VOL 11, NO.3

## WWU brings *Isamu* **NOGUCHI'S WORLD** to West Coast April 4–June 10

By Sarah Clark-Langager  
WESTERN GALLERY

Joining a national celebration of the centennial of Isamu Noguchi's birth, the Western Gallery is presenting a two-part exhibition (April 4 through June 10) that will include photographs never before displayed outside of Japan or the Noguchi Museum in Long Island City, N.Y.

The exhibition coincides with Japan Week at Western (the week of May 2), which was introduced in 1997 to stimulate cross-cultural exchanges and foster intercultural understanding.

"Noguchi: The Bollingen Journey Photographs 1949–1956" represents the results of Noguchi's study of "the

physical environment of leisure... its meaning, its use and its relationship to society." The artist's photographs of his travels through Europe, Egypt, India, Southeast Asia and Japan provide a visual diary of how various cultures have perceived leisure time and space, especially the "contemplative uses of leisure." This exhibition was organized by curator Bonnie Rychlak for the Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum.

During this period of his travels, Noguchi noted that burgeoning industrialization, along with diminishing religious expression, signaled "a renewed search for the meaning of existence, a re-creative process which demands the utmost from artists of every kind in

order to build an environment equal to our needs."

Noguchi's photographs provide a record of lifestyles and places that no longer exist as they once did, including images of two historic sites in Southeast Asia that were damaged in the Dec. 26 tsunami: Mahabalipuram, a coastal sanctuary founded in the seventh century, and the 13th century Sun Temple of Koranak on the shore of the Bay of Bengal.

The Western Gallery, under director Sarah Clark-Langager, organized the "Noguchi and Dance" exhibition focusing on Noguchi's interdisciplinary creations, particularly his desire to create designs for dance—a type of environment with spatial and spiritual dynamics. The exhibition demonstrates the relationship among Noguchi's stage sets, sculpture and furniture designs and highlights models for his "Sky-viewing Sculpture," which has been on display in Western's Red Square since 1969. This sculpture was influenced by Noguchi's photograph of an East Indian observatory, as well as a dance set Noguchi designed for the Martha Graham Dance Company.

The exhibition also includes a DVD, in large-scale format, of Western's own dance group utilizing Noguchi's "Sky-viewing Sculpture" as a stage set.

Western Gallery exhibitions are funded, in part, by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and the Homer B. Mathes Endowment Fund. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Wednesday when the gallery is open until 8 p.m. Saturday hours are noon to 4 p.m. The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.westerngallery.wvu.edu/](http://www.westerngallery.wvu.edu/) or call (360) 650-3900.

photo credit: © Isamu Noguchi, 2003, The Noguchi Museum, N.Y.



This photograph, taken in Kohima, Nagaland, India, is representative of Isamu Noguchi's study of the physical environment of leisure.

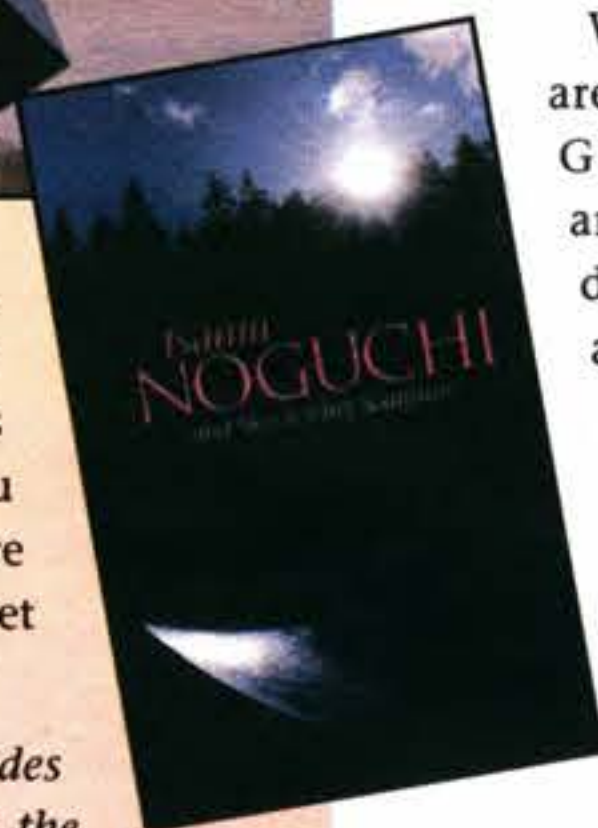
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Teachers exploring interdisciplinary approaches to art and mathematics gathered on Western's campus April 22 and 23 for "A Celebration: Building Connections Between Art and Mathematics." Mathematics professor Branko Curgus presented a mathematical view of Isamu Noguchi's "Skyviewing Sculpture" (added to WWU's Outdoor Sculpture Collection in 1969) and revealed a hidden number which holds the secret to the mathematical spirit of the sculpture.

"Isamu Noguchi and Skyviewing Sculpture," published last year, includes proceedings of an earlier seminar by Branko Curgus which fully explains the sculpture's mathematical properties. To order a copy, call WWU's Publishing Services at (360) 650-3914.



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## WWU sustainable design team wins \$40,000 award

A \$40,000 grant was awarded for a winter quarter WWU project which applied technology design solutions to solve water quality problems in rural, isolated communities. Only three proposals were selected nationally for this award, sponsored by Procter & Gamble and the Industrial Designers of America.

Students participating in the project focused on a rural community in Greece dependent on rainwater as a primary source of water. They were assisted by Arunas Oslapas, associate professor of industrial design, and Nicholas Zaferatos, assistant professor of planning and environmental policy at Western's Huxley College of the Environment.

## Roger Briggs receives Goddard Lieberman Fellowship

Roger Briggs, professor of music, has been selected to receive one of two Goddard Lieberman Fellowships presented this year. The fellowship, awarded to mid-career composers demonstrating exceptional gifts, is endowed by the CBS Foundation and includes a \$15,000 stipend.

Briggs' music has been performed by the London Symphony Orchestra, the Prague Orchestra, the Warsaw Philharmonic and the Seattle Symphony. He joined WWU's music department in 1989.

## Steven Garfinkle selected for NEH fellowship

Ancient history professor Steven Garfinkle has been awarded a fellowship and \$40,000 stipend by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Garfinkle will spend the 2005-2006 academic year studying the origins of commerce in early Mesopotamia. His research will include trips to various locations to study unpublished clay tablets.

## Green energy fee approved

Western's board of trustees has approved a student fee to be utilized for the purchase of renewable energy, positioning Western to become a national leader in the renewable energy field as the second largest purchaser of green power in higher education and the 15<sup>th</sup> largest purchaser of green energy overall. A student-led initiative on green energy passed with 84.7 percent approval last spring.

## Marine center at Shannon Point undergoing expansion

Construction began this spring on a 12,700-square-foot addition to Western's Shannon Point Marine Center in Anacortes. The contract for building the \$4.9 million project, designed by MBT Architecture of Seattle, was awarded to Newland Construction Co. of Everett.



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## on WESTERN

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This publication is also available  
in an alternate format.  
Call (360) 650-3617.

## Your LETTERS

### EDUCATION BUILT SUCCESS

I believe the education that I received in the Bellingham school system, capped off with the first-rate program at Western, is responsible for the success I have had—two Supreme Court wins and president of the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys. Western taught me how to think, not to fear change and fostered a desire to be of service. It is a great school.

—Martin F. Muench ('69)

### CEDERSTROM IS A FAVORITE

I was a shy freshman registering for classes. Dismayed at discovering that the section was closed for the humanities discussion group I wanted, I stood at the desk pondering the choices that remained. Very quietly, a man at the desk told me to enroll in the 8 a.m. section. At the first session, I discovered that man was the instructor, Dr. Moyle Cederstrom.

Sometime during that quarter, Dr. Cederstrom asked me why I rarely said anything in class. I told him the other students seemed to know a lot more about the topics than I did and I was reluctant to voice my opinion. He told me my ideas were just as valid as theirs and that the other students were not always correct in what they were saying.

I had Dr. Cederstrom as instructor in a variety of classes. Quite regularly he called on me to share my ideas aloud. His smile was the only recognition that was given sometimes to the validity of what I had said. If he thought I was off-track, he gently brought the discussion from my comments to the right track, without embarrassing me.

Through my career as a teacher, and as a member of several organizations, I have voiced my ideas and been a full participant, thanks in part to Dr. Cederstrom's kindness.

—Kay McMurry ('64)

### A TRUE PATRIOT

Your tribute to Herbert C. Taylor was most touching. He was a compatriot of mine in the Washington Air National Guard. We served together at the Bellingham unit, 262<sup>nd</sup> Communications Squadron. Herb, not Bud, was not only a mentor of mine, but a true patriot. I do regret, however, that you did not mention his wife and survivor, Carol Taylor. It was my distinct pleasure to know and respect both.

—Milton H. Towne ('59)

### CREDITS WWU FOR CAREER

I graduated with a bachelor's in linguistics and a minor in Chinese. I found Chinese to be a very interesting and challenging language to study, especially with the help of teachers like Janet Xing and Ho-chin Yang.

Working through the Chinese Teaching Program at WWU, I found that for a modest fee I could go to China, work as a teacher and study Chinese on the side. In August 2001 I found myself on a plane heading for a small town called Wenzhou in Zhejiang province, near the East China Sea.

I taught English in Wenzhou for two years, then moved to a different town in Zhejiang called Ningbo. I am now working with an American company as a buyer. I do interpretation/translation as well. I am helping my Chinese co-workers speak better English, attending trade shows all over the country, looking for new products and factories to supply them and, of course, helping colleagues visiting from the United States get around in China.

I have a Chinese boyfriend and hope to someday introduce him to Janet Xing and Ho-chin Yang. It would be no exaggeration to say that without them, I would never be where I am now.

—Marli McFarland ('01)

Send your letters to Window on Western, MS-9011, WWU, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225-9011. Letters are sometimes edited for length.



## Improving the lives of tsunami survivors

By Paolo Mottola  
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Western Washington University counselor James Orr assessed and treated mental conditions of English-speaking relief volunteers at the Bong Woan refugee camp in Thailand this winter. He says the camp was "busier than an ant nest and less private than a fish bowl."

Orr was vacationing in northern Thailand when he learned that a tsunami had struck. He joined a Thailand Ministry of Mental Health team of volunteers.

The team met in Bangkok, flew to a psychiatric hospital in southeastern Thailand, and took a three-hour bus ride to a refugee camp serving the 3,000 survivors of Ban Nam Ken fishing village. Volunteers made early diagnoses of the victims' mental and physical health, allocated supplies and built rows of small shacks for temporary housing.

Orr was able to work with the Pfizer Corp., which donated \$10 million to tsunami reconstruction efforts. He co-wrote a grant using some of the donated funds to support a conference held in February that addressed mental health needs in the wake of the tsunami.

In March, Western associate professor of psychology David Sattler traveled to Phuket, Thailand to conduct a project



photo credit: David Sattler  
*David Sattler and graduate student Adam Moller interview survivors of the Asian tsunami. Results will be used to examine how intervention and recovery programs can be improved.*

examining mental health issues related to the tsunami. Psychology graduate student Adam Moller accompanied Sattler on the trip to assist with data collection.

"I am very pleased to have put together a diverse research team," Sattler said. "We have interviewed many people whose lives were threatened by the tsunami, asked about psychological distress and coping strategies, and identified primary needs. We hope this project can help improve intervention and recovery programs."

Sattler will present his findings at the American Psychological Association conference this August.

Sattler has been conducting research on natural disaster survivors since 1989

and has studied the effects of hurricanes in Hawaii and the Gulf Coast and earthquakes in India, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Los Angeles.

"Improving warning systems is especially important because population trends indicate that people in the United States and in other countries are moving into areas prone to disasters. It is especially important that people know the warning signs of a disaster and how to protect their families and property," he said.

In January, one month after the Asian tsunami, Western students observed a "Day of Remembrance" with a candlelight vigil and memorial ribbon campaign. Donations were collected at all events to help fund international and local relief efforts. In addition, the university community organized a fund drive to raise money for the Mount Baker Chapter of the American Red Cross to aid victims of the Asian tsunami as well as provide local disaster assistance.

## Encouraging Achievements

Karl Plank, a Squalicum High School senior, was selected in January as a finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search and went on to place eighth in the company's national search, winning a \$20,000 scholarship.

Plank credits his parents and David Patrick, his mentor at WWU, for the success he has achieved.

Only 40 students from across the nation are selected each year for this honor. Steven Hickman is the only other student from Washington state to place as a finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search over the past five years. Hickman also was mentored by Patrick.

Patrick directs a research group of undergraduate and graduate students and selected Plank for the group after interviewing him and reviewing his transcript. He says Plank "convinced me he was up to the challenge, which has certainly turned out to be the case."

Plank's research, in nanoscience, examined "a fundamentally new way of organizing matter at the smallest level." He used crystals as filters to deposit particles of matter in the same pattern in which they had been suspended.

Plank also placed first overall in the recent Washington State Science and Engineering Fair and will travel to Arizona to compete internationally.

## Spring heralds celebration of scholarship and creativity

By Karen W. Morse  
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

As this column is being written, the trees on campus are bursting into leaf and flower in what is an early spring. It is the season when we especially salute the scholarship and creativity that has taken place on campus during the academic year.

May brings Scholars Week. As a community of scholars, we celebrate providing a stimulating learning environment for students and faculty. On May 16 through 20, we will be sharing the undergraduate research and creative activities of our students and their faculty mentors. Participants from departments in all seven colleges will present papers and posters or creative performances demonstrating their work.

Recently, a number of our students, faculty and staff have received recognition for their work. As just a sampling of these honors, a team of Huxley College and industrial design faculty and students was awarded \$40,000 by Procter & Gamble and the Industrial Designers Society of

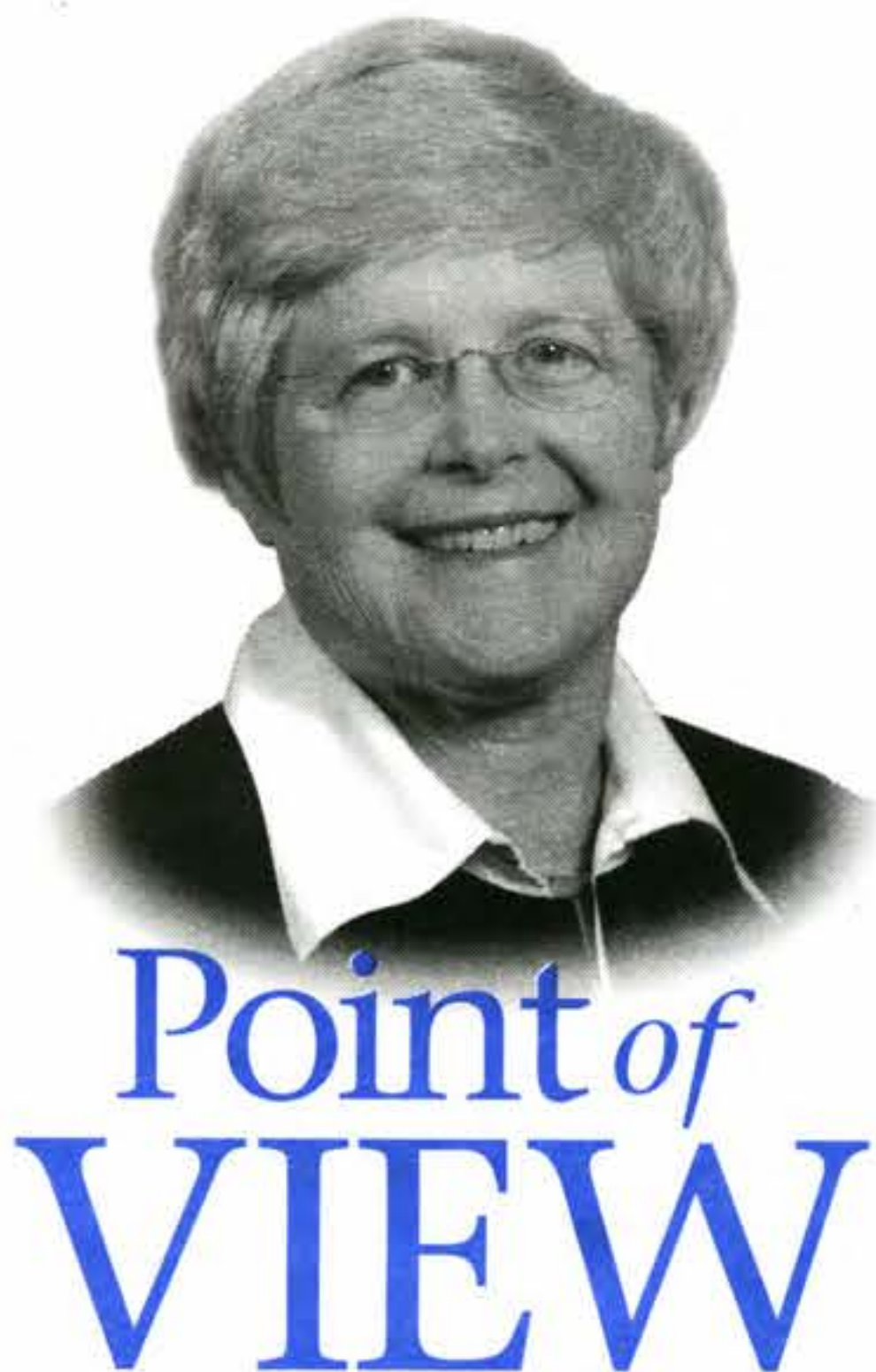
America (IDSA) for their proposal to help remote communities world-wide solve their water quality problems through sustainable design. Music professor Roger Briggs received one of two Goddard Lieberman Fellowships, awarded to mid-career composers of exceptional gifts, while industrial design associate professor Arunas Oslapas received a Mayor's Art Award for arts education and leadership and Pat Fabiano, director of Prevention and Wellness Services, received a Northwest Women's Hall of Fame award for her service to the community.

Many of you who are also parents of current students will take the opportunity to visit during Western Showtime Family Weekend, May 13 through 15, when the campus is in full bloom. A weekend of activities including games, a concert, Bellingham Bay bird-watching or kayak tours and a family golf tournament have been planned. Even if you are not parents, I invite you to visit campus sometime during the spring or summer months to enjoy its beauty, its outdoor sculpture and perhaps a Summer Stock theater performance.

On campus this spring at the Western Gallery is "Isamu Noguchi's World," a two-part exhibit of never-before-seen photographs by the famed sculptor as well as dance inspired by his on-campus cube "Skyviewing." Part of a national celebration of the centennial of his birth, the photographs, taken from 1949 to 1956, explore how people in different parts of the world thought about leisure. Be sure to visit this extraordinary exhibit.

If you are not able to be on campus, I want to cordially invite you to participate in one of the number of activities the Alumni Association has planned for this spring and summer. From cruises to chapter activities, there is something for everyone. And registration is opening for this summer's Western Kids Camp, open to children entering grades K-8. For more information, visit [www.wwu.edu/campusrec/kidscamp](http://www.wwu.edu/campusrec/kidscamp).

I encourage you to "connect" with us. Come see us!



TO WRITE

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## Plan now for Western's Really Big Weekend

NOVEMBER 4-6

Final plans are being confirmed now for an event that offers a unique opportunity for alumni to return to Bellingham.

Western's Really Big Weekend will offer something for everyone. Events and activities will be centered on family fun, continuing education, open houses for the academic departments,

multiple athletic events and exciting performances in the Performing Arts Center.

Mark your calendars now for Nov. 4-6 and plan to join us on campus for this exciting weekend. Look for more details to be mailed to you later this summer.

The Wade King Student Recreation Center has partnered with WWU Extended Education and Summer Programs to offer an exciting hands-on, skill-building Western Kids Camp. Weekly camps will run from June 20 through September 2. Activities will revolve around a distinct theme each week. Weekly morning educational pro-

grams will be followed by supervised afternoon sessions that will include crafts, swimming, rock climbing, archery, theme-related sports and more.

For information call (360) 650-4094 or go online to download camp details and registration information at [www.wvu.edu/campusrec/kidscamp](http://www.wvu.edu/campusrec/kidscamp).

WESTERN  
Kid's Camp

## Ernie Sams recognized for long and meritorious service



photo credit: Amy Cloud

*Ernie Sams was recognized at Winter Commencement for his 59 years of service to the Western community.*

By Amy Cloud  
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

For his service to the country during World War II, Ernie Sams received a Bronze Star for meritorious achievement.

For his service to Western Washington University, he was likewise honored for meritorious achievement, this time with special recognition presented during Western's Winter Commencement ceremony on March 19.

Following World War II, Sams swapped his infantryman camouflage for khakis and enrolled at what was then Western Washington College of Education. To help meet expenses not covered by the GI Bill, he began working in the mimeograph office in Old Main.

The mimeograph office is now a distant memory, but Sams still has an office in Old Main.

From his first job, inventorying property, to giving testimony before the Legislature on Western Washington State College's budget, Sams has grown up with Western and its numbers. Eleven presidents have come and gone from Old Main during the 59 years he has been at the university.

William Wade Haggard was president when Sams started at Western. He remembers Dr. Haggard leaning out his office window to holler at students to "get off the lawn!" There were only 400 students then. "Everyone knew everybody. We were all friends," he says.

The fifties and sixties were decades of great growth, and Sams' career grew

as well. The former accounting student moved from the mimeograph office to the business office, went on to become acting business manager and then was named director of institutional research.

Sams was meticulous in his work. In the seventies, when student enrollment plunged, his careful tracking of "institutional activity" helped Western survive a budget crisis.

Sams retired on Feb. 28, 1982—and returned to work on a part-time basis, as a planning analyst, the very next day. He's still crunching numbers, a job he enjoys more than ever despite the university's exponential growth over the past decade. "I wouldn't be here now [after 59 years] if I didn't enjoy it—and I do," he says.

## Making a personal difference

By Melena Eaton  
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Sixteen-year-old Moises had already endured tracheostomy surgery when he arrived in the United States after a flight from Guatemala. He was nervous, but excited at the possibility of talking for the first time in almost five years.

Roberta DeBoard and Tedd Judd were there to welcome him into their home as a host family for the Healing the Children program

Healing the Children sends physicians and nurses abroad to provide medical care for underprivileged children. On one of these visits Moises was discovered by a nurse practitioner. Surgeons examined his tracheostomy and decided that he would need to come to the States to have it repaired.

After three unsuccessful surgeries, DeBoard and Judd requested that Moises be allowed to stay in Bellingham longer so they could enroll him in the speech therapy program at Western's Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.



photo credit: Kelly Heese

*Melissa Youmans helps Moises learn to communicate using alternative speaking methods.*

"We had been aware of the clinic's good work for a long time," DeBoard said.

Moises received a scholarship to cover his treatment costs and began to come into the clinic for sessions that would show him how to use alternative speaking methods, such as esophageal speaking, a method of trapping air in the esophagus and bringing it out on command, and speaking with an electro-larynx.

"Moises came to the clinic from September to December for three 50-minute sessions each week," associate professor of communication and science disorders Lina Zeine said. The beginning sessions focused on how to use an electro-larynx.

Graduate student clinician Melissa Youmans planned Moises' sessions and worked with him during his quarter at Western.

"He was a really fast learner, and I think the motivation was there because he'd had no means of verbal communication for five years," Youmans said. "I knew I would be making a big difference in his life, but I had no idea how big."

In December, Moises returned to Guatemala where he is living just outside the capital city.

"Moises gained more than just a physical voice. The training helped him regain his personal voice to share his thoughts and feelings with others," DeBoard said.



# Gift ANNUITIES

*A great way to support scholarship and increase retirement income*

Western Washington University Foundation's gift annuity program is providing meaningful income to people who want extra financial support while they are living and a guaranteed way to include an educational legacy as part of their estates. In many cases, a significant portion of the income they receive from their gift annuity is tax-free.

A **life estate reserved gift** is another way to leave an educational legacy while retaining the resources you need during your lifetime.

In 1999, **Lucille Barron** deeded her condominium as a life estate reserved gift to the Western Washington University Foundation. Until her death last September, she was given full and unrestricted use of the property and continued to

As with other gifts, the donor of a life estate may designate the gift to be used in a specific way. Lucille Barron specified that the sale of her condominium be used first to increase the principal of the Declan Barron Scholarship fund to \$50,000 and then to endow a Lucille Reimer Barron Scholarship.

Lucille Barron and her husband, Declan Barron, both taught at Western. They devoted their lives to scholarship and to enhancing educational opportunities for students.

Lucille Barron was an associate professor in home economics with a special interest in clothing textiles and textile design. She brought an interdisciplinary approach to her classes, weaving in the study of art history. Barron taught at Western from 1945 until her retirement in 1978.

She continued to work on behalf of education after her retirement. Her extensive volunteer efforts were spent in fundraising for educational fellowships. In 1994 the Bellingham branch of the American Association of University Women named a fellowship to the International Federated Women's Foundation in her name.



Lucille Barron

*Lucille Barron deeded her condominium as a life estate reserved gift, retaining full and unrestricted use of the property during her lifetime. She taught at Western from 1945 until her retirement in 1978.*

Declan Barron taught at Western from 1946 until his death in 1967. He recognized the many different approaches to learning and served on the steering committee to establish Fairhaven College. The Declan Barron Scholarship was established with an endowment from his estate.

For information on planned gifts through the Western Washington University Foundation, please contact Deborah DeWees at (360) 650-3622 or email [deborah.dewees@wwu.edu](mailto:deborah.dewees@wwu.edu).

## Features of a Charitable Gift Annuity

- Provide meaningful support for Western Washington University.
- Earn a fixed income for life (a portion of which may be tax-free).
- Receive a higher rate of return than noncharitable fixed-income investments such as CDs.
- Gain an income tax deduction when you establish the annuity.

*Your gift annuity investment is protected, backed 100% by the assets of the Western Washington University Foundation.*

The income support a gift annuity provides has made a real difference in the lives of the alumni, family members, close friends, and former professors who have established annuities with the WWU Foundation.

**Marjorie Thorson** attended Western for a short while after World War II. She said the time she spent here was significant and the support and encouragement she received made a meaningful difference in her life.

When her husband, Donald, retired from Exxon Mobil after 27 years, the couple decided to donate highly appreciated Exxon Mobil stock to Western through the charitable gift annuity program. The Thorsons receive an annual 7.1% annual return on the annuity, part of which is tax free. Payments are guaranteed for the rest of their lives. The annuity principal will eventually go to Western and will benefit students for generations to come.

maintain the property (remaining financially responsible for expenses, taxes, insurance, maintenance and condominium association fees) in the same way she would have done if the gift had not been made. Her life estate reserved gift included the provision that the executor of her estate would be given a reasonable amount of time (up to six months) following her death to remove personal effects, at which time the property would be sold and the proceeds donated to Western.

## How Charitable Gift Annuities Work

When you give securities or cash as a gift annuity, the Western Washington University Foundation sends you a guaranteed payment every year for the rest of your life. You can establish a gift annuity with a minimum gift of \$10,000.

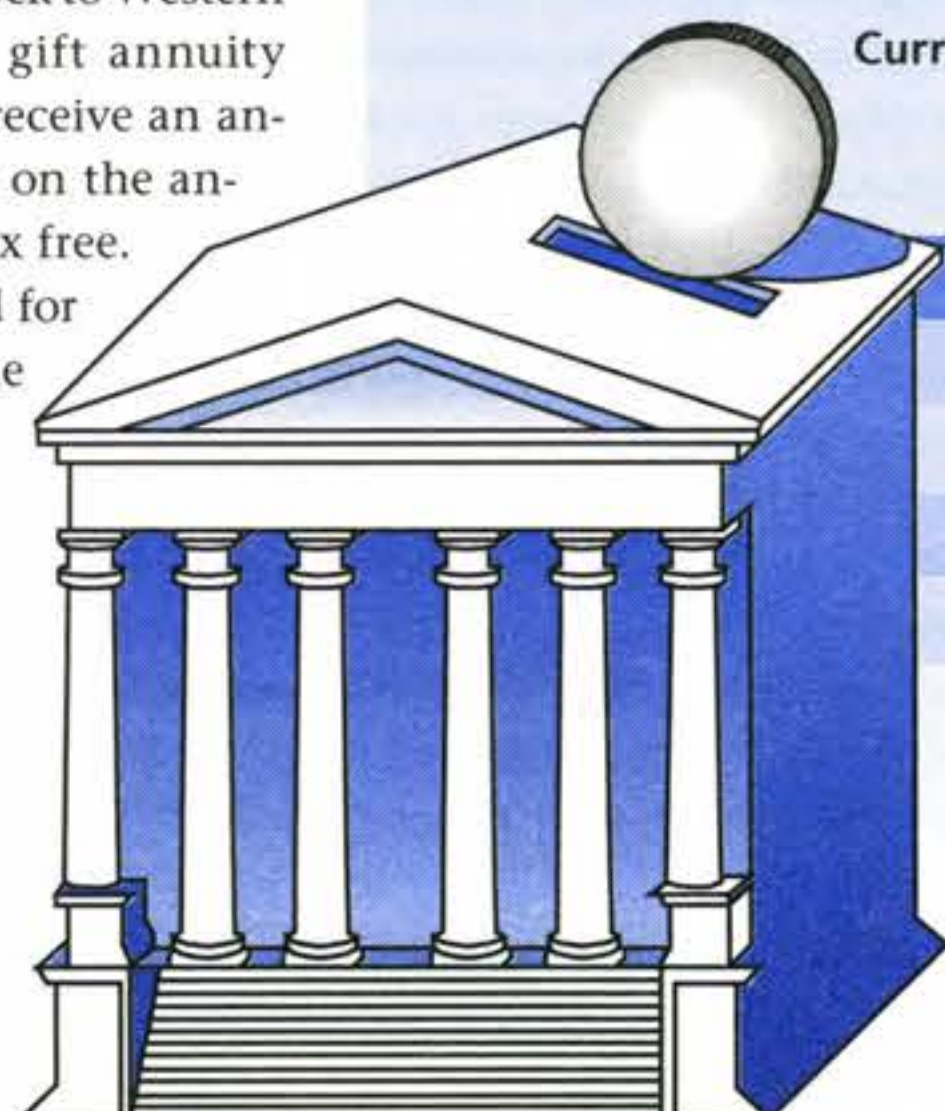
Current annuity rates, determined by the age of the income recipient, are reflected below:

### \$10,000 Gift Annuity\*

Age	Rate of Return	Annuity Payment	Tax-Free Portion
60	5.7%	\$570	\$308
70	6.5%	\$650	\$403
80	8.0%	\$800	\$564
90	11.3%	\$1,130	\$895

If you would like a personalized illustration or more information, please call or e-mail Deborah DeWees, associate director of planned giving, at (360) 650-3622 or [deborah.dewees@wwu.edu](mailto:deborah.dewees@wwu.edu). We also recommend that you discuss your plans with your professional advisors.

*\*The amount of \$10,000 is used here for illustration purposes only. The rates shown are based upon a single-life annuity. Two-life annuity rates are lower.*



## New office location for Western Washington University Foundation

The Western Washington University Foundation has moved. While still located on the fourth floor of Old Main, the staff is now housed in Old Main 430. The office telephone number, (360) 650-3612, individual telephone extensions, fax number, (360) 650-2832, mail-stop address (9034) and email addresses all remain the same.

*We are always pleased to receive visitors. Be sure to stop in at Old Main 430 the next time you're on campus.*



## Celebrating Connections Between

# ART and MATHEMATICS

*The moving power of mathematical invention is not reasoning but imagination.*

August de Morgan (1806-1871), professor of mathematics, University College, London

Robert Bosch, mathematics professor at Oberlin College, collaborated with first- and second-grade students to create this domino portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr. (at right). Twelve domino sets were used.

photo credit: Robert Bosch

By Dee Johnson  
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Posters decorate the file cabinets in Jerry Johnson's office. One, a quote by August de Morgan, serves as a reminder that imagination is the moving power of mathematical invention. Johnson, professor of mathematics, tells students that "math isn't just factoring and trinomials and doing other such computations, it's part of everything we do."

"A Celebration: Building Connections Between Art and Mathematics," held on campus April 22-23, illustrated that message.

The symposium opened with a keynote address Friday evening by **Bulent Atalay**, author of "Math and the Mona Lisa." About 400 people were in attendance. Atalay's address focused on Leonardo da Vinci, a Renaissance mathematician, scientist, inventor and artist famous for his paintings of the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper.

Atalay is a professor of physics at the Institute of Advanced Study/University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. "Math and the Mona Lisa" has had six printings since its introduction in April 2004 and has been credited with

showing, in accessible language, how da Vinci's model can assist in bridging the cultural divide prevailing in our age of specialization.

In his presentation, Atalay suggested that da Vinci may have used geometric underlayings with intent when he painted the Mona Lisa. While he admits that we never can know with certainty whether that use was da Vinci's unerring eye, or whether it was purposeful, Atalay clearly demonstrated that the Mona Lisa synthesizes art and mathematics. Atalay explained the Fibonacci Series, a sequence of numbers whose ratio of adjacent numbers approaches 1:1.618, and showed how this sequence was repeated in the Mona Lisa. The value 1:1.618 is called the golden ratio or divine proportion and is a basic part of anatomy. It has been identified in the double-helix of DNA and repeatedly shows up in nature and in art, music, architecture and industrial design. The ubiquitous and unconscious use of this structure confirms studies which indicate its universal appeal.

At noon on Saturday, Western mathematics professor **Branko Curgus** presented a mathematical view of Isamu Noguchi's "Skyviewing Sculpture," part of WWU's Outdoor Sculpture Collection. Curgus showed attendees how to build a replica which, he says, is the best way to understand the sculpture mathematically. He also explained which part of the sculpture was most significant mathematically and revealed a hidden number holding the secret to the mathematical spirit of the sculpture.

The symposium closed with an afternoon presentation on "opt art" by **Robert Bosch**, professor of mathematics at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. Opt art refers to art constructed with the assistance of mathematical optimization techniques.

Bosch creates portraits with dominoes using integer programming he developed that tells him

where to put each domino. Part of the challenge in creating the portraits is a self-directed requirement to use every single domino in each set. His Mona Lisa portrait, exhibited at the workshop, was created using 96 sets of dominoes.

Bosch also explored the connection of mathematical linear programming to the pointillism techniques used by impressionist artists. Pointillism juxtaposes dots of pure color that are then, in an unconscious process, optically mixed into new hues by the viewer.

*The primary benefit in developing curricular materials for a course on mathematics and art has been the opportunity to talk to non-mathematicians who haven't yet learned where the most beautiful aspects of the subject lie.*

Annalisa Crannell, chair of mathematics, Franklin and Marshall College

Students, parents and art teachers participated throughout the day in a variety of campus activities, including tours of Western's Outdoor Sculpture Collection and visits to the Western Gallery where a collection of works by Isamu Noguchi is currently being displayed.

Carol Edwards, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, observed that the weekend's activities encouraged the exchange of ideas for a different approach to professional development programs. "Art teachers often have a hard time finding workshops relevant to their discipline. This seminar gave us a real opportunity to think outside the box, to remember that we're not just trapped in our own disciplines."

"A Celebration: Building Connections Between Art and Mathematics" was sponsored by the Whatcom and Skagit Mathematics Partnership, a three-year program funded by the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of the partnership is to increase math achievement levels for all students and to narrow math achievement differences between diverse student populations.

Visiting professors presented a variety of academically-focused workshops for mathematics teachers during the symposium.

**George Hart**, a professor of computer science at Stony Brook University, in Stony Brook, N.Y., presented slides of some of his sculptures designed with the aid of computers. He also presented videos of the assembly of three recent commissions demonstrating the mathematics and algorithms underlying his works. As a sculptor of constructive geometric forms, Hart's work deals with patterns and relationships derived from classical ideals of balance and symmetry.

Teachers attending **Jill Britton's** workshops created tessellating templates and went home with software that enables them to create tessellating artwork on their own computers. The workshop focused on the art of M. C. Escher, a Dutch graphic artist who used tessellations (repeating geometric patterns) to create works with mathematically complex structures and spatial illusions that require a "second look" to discover all there is to see. Britton teaches mathematics at Camosun College in Victoria, B.C.

**Annalisa Crannell**, chair of mathematics at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., led workshops exploring the mathematics behind perspective, going from simple rules and leading into "really lovely, really tricky mathematical puzzles." Using hands-on examples, participants examined how and why artists use vanishing points, the difference between one-point and three-point perspectives, and how a perspective is perceived differently by an artist and a camera.

School districts participating in the Whatcom and Skagit Mathematics Partnership include Bellingham School District, Blaine School District, Burlington-Edison School District, Ferndale School District, Lynden School District, Meridian School District, Mount Baker School District, Nooksack Valley School District, Lummi Tribal School and Sedro-Woolley School District. Skagit Valley College, Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College are also participating partners.

photo credit: Dee Johnson



The Art and Science of Leonardo da Vinci

Bulent Atalay, physics professor at the University of Mary Washington and author of "Math and the Mona Lisa," opened "A Celebration: Building Connections Between Art and Mathematics" with a keynote address focusing on Leonardo da Vinci.



# Changing how we look at mathematics

By Dee Johnson  
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Branko Curgus, professor of mathematics, has wondered aloud why it is that math and numbers have a bad public image. "Numbers, the same as words, can be exciting, intriguing and mysterious," he says.

"Somehow we have done a very effective job of destroying what mathematics is," says Millie Johnson, associate professor of mathematics. "People think math is a static subject, a closed book of rules that you just continue to copy. But math is changing all the time. We expect that in music and art, but not in mathematics."

Johnson believes we need to reassess the way we look at math, and the way we teach it. "I was a curious child, always asking why, and in math classes I was continuously put off," she recalls. "Teachers would tell me, 'You'll find out in the next class. These are the rules you need to know for this course.' I couldn't understand why they were hiding information, holding it out of my reach."

Johnson continued taking math classes, in self-defense, she says. She was determined to find the answers to her questions, to see the reasoning behind the rules she had been told to simply accept. The excitement of discovery offered in advanced-level courses kept her interest alive.

Johnson also had a strong interest in music and interrupted her undergraduate studies to pursue a promising career in opera. Her parents were musicians, and her six brothers and sisters all played the piano and mastered at least one other instrument. By the age of five, she knew she would be taking piano lessons. It was a natural progression. Johnson went into vocal music, was classically trained, and performed with an opera company in New York.

That was a very demanding period in her life. "You had to give up a lot to make sure you were in voice. If you had a concert, if you had a program, if you were in an opera, if you had an audition, you couldn't be out in the cold air, you couldn't be around smoke, you couldn't be up late, you couldn't be using your voice incorrectly." She was concerned that even if she made those sacrifices, she would not be able to support herself with her music.



photo credit: Dee Johnson

*Students in a general university requirement (GUR) pre-calculus class conduct experiments to learn about the effects of changing variables. Johnson welcomes the opportunity to teach GURs because "they give us one last opportunity to interest students who have decided that they hate mathematics."*

She returned to school, earned undergraduate and advanced degrees in mathematics, and went into teaching. She has found that teaching fulfills her need to live creatively.

She wants her students to also live creatively and made a commitment early in her teaching career to take a different approach, to show students that mathematics is a changing, exciting discipline not limited to the rote memory of rules and formulas.

Five years ago, Johnson started performing with a local klezmer band. The music provides more freedom than her classical training allowed. "Klezmer music has its roots in 15th century Eastern Europe. It's very ethnic" she says. "There's lots of room for improvisation so you can write parts where

all the instruments are playing wildly different things, and then you bring them back together.

"When I'm writing a piece of music, I have the sound in my head. I know what I want it to do and what instruments I want to use and how I want it to come together, and then somebody plays it, and I hear it, and it doesn't quite match, and I have to build on it piece by piece. I have to keep adjusting until it matches the sound in my head.

"The same applies in mathematics, where you have a problem, you have sort of an idea that the solution should be about here, and you work on it, and you test it, and it doesn't quite work. Then you go back and you adjust this, and you adjust that, and you keep jiggling your variables until you understand the behavior of a phenomenon and which variables are relevant. It's very similar to music. It's a very exciting process. That doesn't mean that you bias the results. You have all this data, you see the result, and you figure out what variables have been changing to make that happen. It's all about tweaking variables.

"What makes people afraid of math is that they think it is very black and white, that it's reduced to rules that you follow to get the right answer. That approach creates a sterile environment that discourages students. We lose the students we need most, the students who are creative thinkers. They don't like a sterile environment."

Johnson draws a parallel to an unhappy experience with a piano teacher. "I spent an entire year practicing scales, doing nothing but playing scales. I forgot there was any enjoyment in playing the piano. There was no transference to making music."

She sees that same paradigm in the way mathematics has traditionally been taught, with its emphasis on rules and formulas and exact answers. "There's no transference to reality, to the variables that make mathematics exciting and creative and relevant."

## NUMBERS

I like the generosity of numbers.

The way, for example,  
they are willing to count  
anything or anyone:

two pickles, one door to the room,  
eight dancers dressed as swans.

I like the domesticity of addition—  
add two cups of milk and stir—  
the sense of plenty: six plums  
on the ground, three more  
falling from the tree.

And multiplication's school  
of fish times fish,  
whose silver bodies breed  
beneath the shadow  
of a boat.

Even subtraction is never loss,  
just addition somewhere else:  
five sparrows take away two,  
the two in someone else's  
garden now.

There's amplitude to long division,  
as it opens Chinese take-out  
box by paper box,  
inside every folded cookie  
a new fortune.

And I never fail to be surprised  
by the gift of an odd remainder,  
footloose at the end:  
forty seven divided by eleven equals four,  
with three remaining.

Three boys beyond their mothers' call,  
two Italians off to the sea,  
one sock that isn't anywhere you look.

Mary Cornish

*Mary Cornish, a visiting professor, taught creative writing at Western's Fairhaven College during the Winter 2005 quarter. "Numbers" (© June 2000) first appeared in "Poetry" magazine and has been reprinted in physics and mathematics textbooks and incorporated into the SAT. It is printed here with permission of the author.*

Keith Craswell, associate professor of mathematics, carved these likenesses of John Reay, a colleague who recently retired from Western's mathematics department. Taking advantage of the eccentric license granted to professors, Reay was noted for pairing ragged running shoes with formal attire. He has also been described as a beggar, always looking for grants.

Like artists, Reay says mathematicians like to take ideas, think about them, and see what those ideas can produce. "And then you think about how you can show that to someone else," he says. "That's what teachers do."

Pictured below is a permanent model Reay created for his students to demonstrate how a link could be brought into a second hole by bending, stretching, pushing and pulling, but never tearing, a rubber model.

The exercise is representative of methods used in topology, a branch of mathematics also referred to as rubber sheet geometry.

Reay is accomplished on the bassoon and clarinet and has played for several years with the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra. He says it's the challenge of working within a framework of rules to create something new that motivates mathematicians, artists and musicians.



## Art students going to Italy

Western is offering a summer art program (June 22 through July 15) which will give students the opportunity to visit and study in Rome, Florence, Tuscany and Venice and to participate in discussions with guest artists and art historians.

Enrollment is limited to 16 students. For information, call (360) 650-3660 or download a brochure at [www.acadweb.wvu.edu/eesp/summer/images/italy-bro.pdf](http://www.acadweb.wvu.edu/eesp/summer/images/italy-bro.pdf).



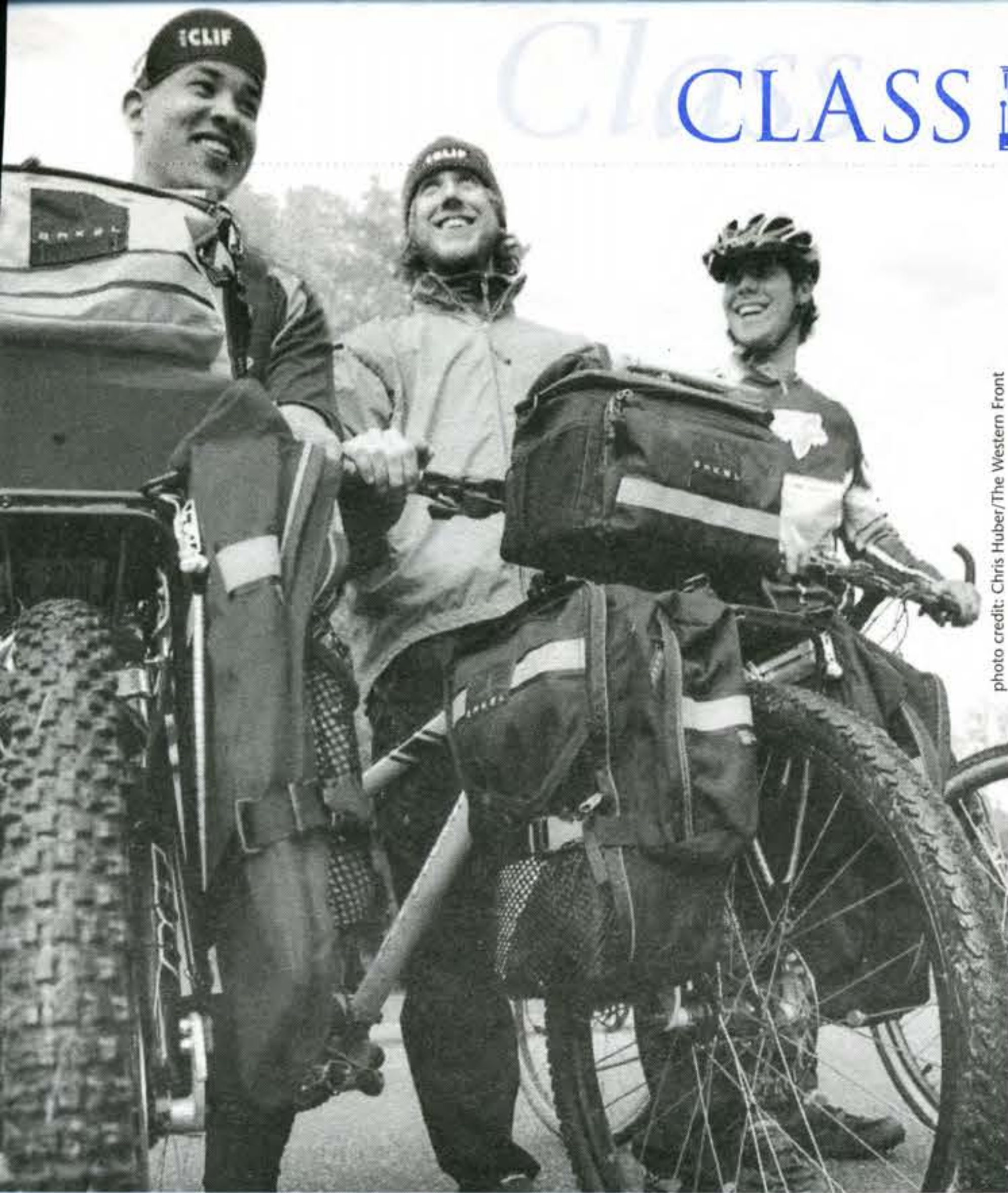


photo credit: Chris Huber/The Western Front

2004 alums Sean Smith, Eric Christensen and Tyrell Marlow are riding their bikes for charity. They have scheduled a 4,000 mile trip that will begin May 15 in Anchorage, Alaska and end around Aug. 4 in Rosarito, Mexico. Classmate Nick Benavidez had also planned to participate but is unable to do so due to family circumstances. He will provide behind-the-scenes support for the team.

**1932 – Lillian Jones Dickerson** was the first of four generations to graduate from WWU. Her grandson, Chris Pilkey, graduated in December 2004. ...

**1937 – Howard Wilder** celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on Dec. 6, 2004 in Shelton. Wilder still drives and remains active in his church, Saint Germain's. ...

**1962 – Barbara Breazeale (Matthews) Nilson** won first place in the at-large contest for the National Federation of Press Women for a series of articles on a retail store. ...

**1967 – Brian Vervynck** joined the firm of Specialty Disease Management Services, Inc. as vice president of sales. Vervynck has more than 25 years' experience in the health care industry. Prior to joining Specialty Disease Management Services, Vervynck was vice president of sales for American Health Holding, Inc. Vervynck also held senior management positions at NaviMedix, McKesson/Access Health Group and TOKOS Medical Corporation. ...

**1968 – Kenneth Bruland** was elected as a 2005 fellow of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and was chosen to receive the 2005 Clair C. Patterson Medal for Environmental Chemistry from the Geochemical Society. Election as a fellow of the AGU recognizes scientists who have attained acknowledged eminence in one or more branches of geophysics. The Geochemical Society's Patterson Medal is awarded to individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the field of environmental geochemistry. Bruland currently holds the Ida Benson Lynn Endowed Chair in Ocean Health at the University of California Santa Cruz. ...

**1970 – Bert Glandon** is the president of Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, Colo. ...

**1972 – Dean Takko** was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Washington State Legislature for the 19th legislative district. ...

**1973 – Graham Haight** was promoted to president of The Bank of Washington. Haight has 26 years' community banking experience in the Snohomish County area. ... **Don Woodhull** teaches first grade in West Contra Costa Unified School District in Richmond, Calif. Woodhull is married and has one step-child at home who is 15 years old. ...

**1975 – Edward W. Barkley** is the Director of Finance for Cardica, Inc. in Silicon Valley. Barkley can be reached by email at ebbarkley@yahoo.com. ... **Linda Santini** of Bellingham wrote the book, "Solving the Mystery of ADHD – Naturally." Santini provides information to help parents use biochemical treatments for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and is a sought-after speaker. ...

**1976 – David Oreiro**, vice president of Northwest Indian College's Center for Tribal Prosperity, was recently named one of the 10 fellows in a leadership training program offered through the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. ...

**1977 – Carolyn Price**, publisher of Price Media, Inc., has transformed Sports Etc Magazine, renaming it Outdoors NW and expanding the publication's distribution from Seattle into the Portland area. Price was Washington's first women's sports editor, taking an assignment after graduation as sports editor for the Lynden Tribune, her first journalism job. Price Media, Inc. also publishes Escapes Adventure/Travel magazine and official program publications for several major Northwest sports events. ...

**1980 – Tom Mosich** was honored by the American Cancer Society with its highest award for volunteerism, the St. George National Award. Mosich has been battling cancer for the past 13 years and has been a Relay for Life volunteer for the last 19 years. ...

**1981 – Ann Moore** has written "Til Morning Light," a sequel to "Leaving Ireland." The novels tell the story of a young woman who, with her children, emigrates from famine-torn Ireland to America. Moore is currently working on her next novel. ...

**1982 – Darcie Nielsen** has accepted a position with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) based in Turkey. Nielsen was elected to the San Juan Board of County Commissioners in 1996 and re-elected in 2000. Prior to elected office, Nielsen was a 15-year land-use planning professional in local government, with a focus on growth management and comprehensive planning, transportation, economic development, open space and conservation, and citizen involvement strategies. NDI has been working in Turkey since 1996 to promote openness and accountability in the political process, along

with development of a strong dynamic civil society. In partnership with Atılım University and elected local executives and legislators, Nielsen will be opening a new NDI program in Turkey focusing on good governance issues and will conduct a pilot project in six cities to establish mechanisms for soliciting and incorporating citizen involvement in public policy decisions at the local level. ...

**1984 – Chris Vance** was re-elected in January to serve a second term as Chairman of the Washington State Republican Party. Vance served as 13<sup>th</sup> District representative on the King County Council from 1994 to 2001 and as a state representative for the 31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District from 1991 to 1993. ...

**1985 – Kathleen Nelson** has been elected to partnership in the firm of Lane Powell Spears Lubersky LLP in Seattle. Nelson is licensed to practice law in three states, Washington, Idaho and California, and focuses on commercial litigation, environmental insurance litigation, maritime and class actions. ...

**1986 – Anne Baunach** is the fund development director for Comprehensive Health Education Foundation (CHEF) in Seattle. Baunach previously served as resource development director for Green River Community College in Auburn. ... **Therese Koelmeyer** and her husband Roger are pastors in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Koelmeyers have a home for abandoned children and have raised 22 children. Therese also oversees an outreach center that was devastated by the Asian tsunami in December. Donations have been sent so that she can provide emergency supplies to the community's 5,000 families displaced from their homes. ...

**1987 – Brad Adams** is a first-term member of the Anacortes City Council and a member of the city's planning subcommittee. Adams works for Hexcel Corporation, a world-wide company that produces aerospace fabrication. ...

**Heidi Grant Murphy** headlined a benefit concert in Bellingham, "Home for the Holidays," in December. Murphy is considered one of the world's top sopranos. ... **Robynne Raye** is the founder of the graphic design firm Modern Dog. Modern Dog designs packaging, products, book covers, posters, corporate identities and websites nationally and internationally. In January, Reynolds Gallery presented a retrospective of the company's work dating from 1987 to 2004. ...

**1988 – Ruth Holbrook** is the supervisor of the Consumer Resource Center in Bellingham and handles consumer complaints and inquiries for the Washington State Office of the Attorney General. ...

**1989 – Rex Rhoades** achieved certification through WWU's Small Business Development Center. Certification emphasizes marketing, human resources, financial analysis and business plan development. Rhoades is a Native American business specialist serving eight tribes in Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish counties. ...

**1990 – Tammy Zlotnick** received a 2005 Bellingham Mayor's Arts Education and Leadership Award on behalf of the Waterfront Artists Studio Collective for supporting and mentoring local artists. ...

**1991 – Maureen Kane** recently resigned as director of the Whatcom Literacy Council to pursue graduate studies. Kane served as executive director for eight years. ...

**1992 – Todd Elsworth** is the owner of Bellingham Benefits, a special-events promotion company, and the founder and chief promoter of Bellingham Traverse, a race that is similar to Ski-to-Sea in that it allows teams and individuals to compete by running, riding mountain and road bikes, and kayaking. Elsworth was recognized by the Bellingham Herald as one of 10 people and organizations that have made a difference in Whatcom County in 2004. ... **John Harrison** has been named principal of Mercer Island High School. ... **Sherry Minninger** joined Cartwright Creative Group and is responsible for office management and accounting services. ... **Ethan Yarbrough**, **Richard Law ('93)** and **Kendrick Efta ('95)** created Gamezilla, a popular game review website. They are senior executives of an information technology staffing company called Allyis. ...

**1995 – Craig Forbes** was promoted to manager of tax services with Hascal, Sjolholm & Company, P.S. in Everett. Forbes has been with the firm since 1998. ...

**1996 – Ian Miller** is the state field coordinator for Surfinder Foundation and was elected to the board of directors of the North Olympic Land Trust. ...

**1997 – Christina Hallock** works on the public relations team for KPS Health Plans, a Washington-based health care provider company. Hallock writes press releases, designs promotional materials, coordinates trade show and business expo appearances, and monitors the company's sales and marketing budget. You may reach Hallock at newsbie007@yahoo.com. Hallock is also the mother of two young boys, ages 4 and 6. ... **Erin Recke** flies private jets for a company based in Richmond, Va. She is relocating back out West to fly for a regional airline. Recke also offers flight instruction on the

## Conservation award recognizes importance of sea grass study

**Richard Gwozdz ('03)** was recently awarded a \$10,000 Budweiser Conservation Scholarship to continue his research of sea grasses in Padilla Bay, an estuary at the northern edge of the Skagit River delta. As part of his graduate study program through Western's Huxley College of the Environment, Gwozdz is collecting data used to predict how environmental alterations, such as floodwater diversions and proposed management plans, could impact the sea grass habitat.

Gwozdz hopes his research will contribute in two areas. "I want to add to the existing body of information about sea level and climate change and its effects on ecosystems. I also hope my research will potentially help natural resource managers consider the effect



Huxley College of the Environment

Richard Gwozdz is collecting data to predict how environmental alterations impact sea grass habitat.

of different watershed management scenarios on sea grasses and associated fauna," he says.

The Budweiser Conservation Scholarship Program annually awards at least 10 scholarships of up to \$10,000 each to students demonstrating academic achievement and an ability and commitment to developing innovative solutions that address issues related to wildlife and plant conservation.



side, is into photography and running, and is still active in the equine world with dressage horses and show jumpers. ...

**1998** – Erin Wall is presenting a benefit concert on May 7 at WWU to honor Virginia Hunter. Wall is a member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Center for American Artists and has performed throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. She is the recipient of the 2004 ARIA Award and the 2004 Richard Tucker Award. Hunter has been an adjunct teacher of Western's music department since 1989. Proceeds from Wall's recital will establish a vocal performance scholarship in Hunter's name to benefit WWU students. ...

**1999** – Amy Korthuis DeMeyer launched Healthy Habits on the web at [www.healthyhabitsforyou.com](http://www.healthyhabitsforyou.com). DeMeyer's business is designed to promote healthy lifestyle choices. She provides in-home personal training and nutrition consulting. DeMeyer can be contacted at [ademeyer@comcast.net](mailto:ademeyer@comcast.net). ... **Carmen Dolfo**, WWU's women's basketball coach, was named National Coach of the Month for December 2004. ... **Pat Green and Rebecca Johnson** survived the Asian tsunami in December. Green and Johnson both have two-year teaching contracts at Singapore American School and were vacationing in Phuket. Both are grateful to be alive with only minor injuries. ... **Christopher Fitzgerald** was voted by the Council of the Arts in Austin as the fourth leading artist in Austin. ... **Darin Johnson** joined Anchor Bank in Aberdeen as the internal auditor. ... **Alex Williams** opened an Edward Jones office in Tumwater. Williams has an accredited asset management designation. ...

**2000** – Cedric Bolton is the coordinator of student engagement and multicultural relations at Syracuse University in New York. ... **Sherri Daymon** is employed at WWU's Small Business Development Center and recently achieved certification through the center for marketing, human resources, financial analysis and business plan development. ... **Jessica Marden** recently passed the bar and is clerking for Judge Mary Kay Becker on the Court of Appeals. Marden graduated from Fairhaven College with an interdisciplinary concentration called "Citizenship, Social Justice and the Law." ... **Jamie O'Brien** spearheaded several fund raising events in Bellingham to help the survivors of the Asian Tsunami. ...

**2001** – Marli McFarland works in China in a town in Zhejiang province called Ningbo as a buyer for an American company's branch office. McFarland rides a bicycle to work across the river every day, hangs wet laundry from bars installed over her balcony just the same as her neighbors do, and has a Chinese boyfriend who runs his own fashion boutique. She hopes to bring him to visit the United States and to introduce him to WWU professors Janet Xing and Ho-Chin Yang, who had a tremendous impact upon her career choice. ...

**2002** – Dan Hammill received a 2005 Bellingham Mayor's Media/Film Award for "Creek Story," a 30-minute documentary of Whatcom Creek. ... **Greg Woehler** is a reporter for the Leavenworth Echo. ... **Warren Newton** was named teacher of the month in January 2005 by Anacortes High School. He was described as being "a musician, an outstanding teacher and an all-around nice guy." ...

**2003** – Pippa Breakspear wrote "On the Rocks," a multimedia production which examines addiction, alcoholism and incarceration. In 2001 she wrote and produced a documentary about Whatcom County's Drug Treatment Court, a treatment-positive program now in its fifth year. Breakspear is combining film making with her knowledge of chemical dependency issues in an attempt to inform people about this debilitating disease, its consequences and society's drug policies. She is currently counseling part-time and working on grants to continue the funding of "On the Rocks." Her film career has spanned 26 years. Her credits include several commercially-

released movies, including "Oliver's Story," "Repo Man," "Square Pegs" and "Dances with Wolves" and numerous commercials and music videos. ...

**2004** – Eric Christianson, Tyrell Marlow and Sean Smith are riding bicycles 4,000 miles, from Alaska to Mexico, with the purpose of increasing awareness and raising money for charitable causes. The three teammates graduated from WWU's recreational program. Smith is riding for orphaned children in Ukraine. Marlow is riding to raise funds for breast cancer research and treatment. Christianson is riding for human rights as it relates to child prostitution. Their journey will start May 15 from Anchorage, Alaska and end in Rosarito, Mexico around Aug. 4. Visit [www.phasefiveide.com](http://www.phasefiveide.com) to learn more. ... **Andrew Hu** created a compact audio disc, "Sleep 101 Volume 1: Magna Cum Boring." Hu's disc is a compilation of class lectures he hopes will help people battle insomnia as the lectures contained on the disc were able to put him to sleep during the middle of the day. Hu's web site is [www.sleep101.net](http://www.sleep101.net). ... **Matt Lehman** joined the team at Moss Adams LLP in Bellingham. ... **Laura Massey** joined the team at Moss Adams LLP in Bellingham. ...

## Sawhill receives Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

**Stephanie Sawhill** ('03) is the recipient of the "2004-2005 Distinguished Master's Thesis Award" presented by the Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS). The award includes a \$1,000 honorarium and an invitation to address the WAGS annual meeting.

Moheb Ghali, dean of Western's graduate school, says Sawhill's thesis, "Synthesis, Characterization and Evaluation of Transition Metal Phosphide Hydrodesulfurization Catalysts" is outstanding science and has "very important implications for removing sulfur impurities in transportation fuels." Portions of her thesis have been published in major academic journals, including the "Journal of Catalysis" and

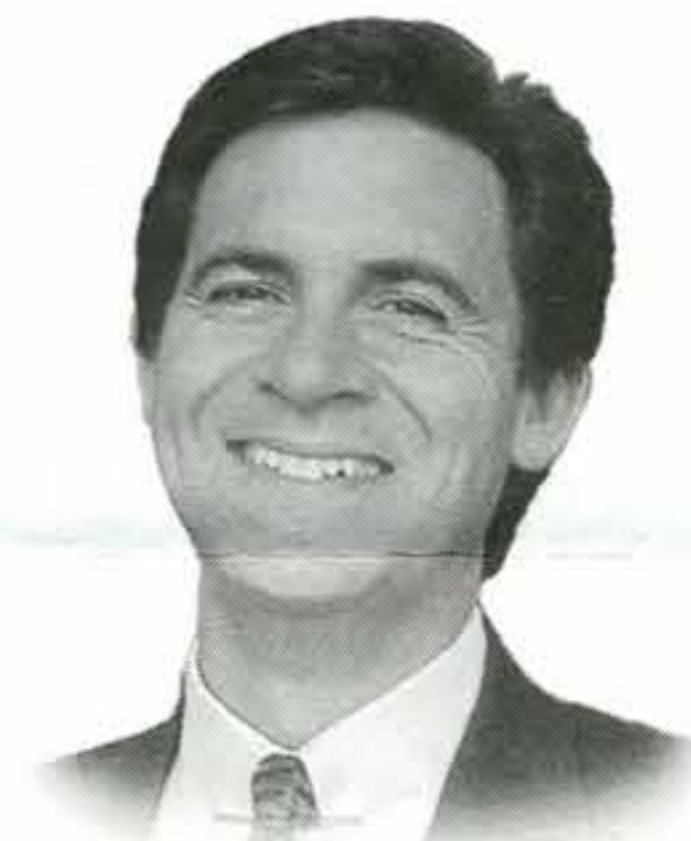
the "Journal of Physical Chemistry." Sawhill is currently collaborating with her thesis advisor, WWU professor of chemistry Mark Bussell, on a paper that Bussell says "should have a major impact in the field."

The WAGS membership includes 95 universities in 13 western states and three western Canadian provinces. Only one thesis is selected annually to receive the Distinguished Master's Thesis Award. The selection is based on originality, significance of the study, methodology and overall quality of research. Over the past 12 years, Western master's theses were finalists for the award 11 times and were selected for the top award five times.

## Clarke is named Washington's High School Principal of the Year

**Steve Clarke** ('85) has been named High School Principal of the Year by the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals, the high school component board of the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP). Clarke is principal of Bellingham High School, a position he has held since 2000. Before then, he served as planning principal while the school's building was closed for a major remodel and helped students handle the resulting transitions. He also worked during part of that time at Sehome High School as interim principal.

Clarke was selected from an initial pool of 12 regional finalists from around the state and is now Washington state's nominee for the National High School Principal of the Year program, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and MetLife. He received his bachelor's degree in education from WWU in 1985 and his master's, also from WWU, in 1991.



Steve Clarke

photo credit: Bellingham Schools

## IN MEMORIAM

**1932** – Agnes Martin, 92, an artist, Dec. 18 in New Mexico.

**1934** – Barbara M. Morris, 91, a former teacher and librarian, March 9.

**1937** – Elisabeth Schuehle Kruse, 90, a retired educator, March 5 in Seattle.

**1939** – Elmer "Link" Lindquist, 89, a longtime educator with Vancouver Public Schools, Jan. 2 in Vancouver.

**1951** – Cale Campbell, 82, former AS President, Feb. 11. ... **Margaret Elma Wilkinson Cheney**, 88, a retired teacher, Sept. 27 in Everett.

**1954** – Frances "Micki" Kaas, 73, on Feb. 1.

**1957** – Vernon C. Cardinal, 73, a retired educator, March 11 in Seattle.

**1961** – Alice Emilie Case Lang Jensen, 91, a former teacher, March 7. ... **John Stout**, 61, executive director of Washington's Court Appointed Special Advocate program for children in foster care, March 28.

**1962** – Charles W. Taylor, 70, a retired teacher and administrator for the Shoreline School District, Jan. 21 in Shoreline.

**1966** – Jean Maxine Korstad, 77, retired after 22 years' service in Western's Registrar's Office, Jan. 22.

**1975** – Ron Zobel, 60, a lawyer, Jan. 26 in Anchorage, Alaska.

**1982** – Mike Judd, 45, a coach, sports writer, outdoorsman and longtime volunteer with Skagit Valley Special Olympics, Dec. 20. ... **Brien Squires**, 48, purchasing manager for Allsop, Inc., Jan. 2 from a heart attack suffered while skiing at his beloved Mt. Baker.

**1996** – Brent Hunter, 32, a fifth-grade teacher at Newcastle Elementary School in Issaquah

**1997** – Shaughn Bresina, 31, a flight attendant, Nov. 25 in Bonney Lake.

## FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS

**Laurence W. Brewster**, 89, a professor of speech in Western's communications department (from 1948 to 1980), on March 6.

**David Schantz Mellander**, 69, a lecturer in geography at WWU (from 1969 to 1973), on March 29.

**Lorraine "Lorrie" Murai Mortimer**, 67, wife of former WWU president Kenneth P. Mortimer, on Feb. 4. She came to Western with her husband in 1988 and lived in Bellingham until 1993, when her husband accepted a position as president of the University of Hawaii. She immediately took an active role in university life, working closely with the fledgling WWU Foundation. Before she left Bellingham, WWU's board of trustees recognized her contributions to the university by designating her as a "special friend" of the university and announcing a Lorraine Mortimer Scholarship, funded through the Foundation. She served on the boards of several community service agencies and was named as an "honorary special citizen" of Bellingham. March 1993 was declared, by mayoral proclamation, as "Lorrie Mortimer Month." She and her husband returned to Bellingham in 2001 following his retirement.



Lorraine Mortimer

**Jane Ellen Roberts**, 74, a professor of family and consumer sciences at WWU (from 1966 to 1995), on Feb. 10.

photo credit: courtesy of the University of Hawaii



## The Battle in Seattle continues

The third annual Battle in Seattle will take place at Qwest Field (formerly Seahawks Stadium) on Saturday, Oct. 8. Your Alumni Association is hard at work planning a pre-game function that will be fun for fans of all ages. We'll have music and good food, and the WWU cheer squad will be there to boost our team spirit.

You will have many opportunities this weekend to reconnect with friends and fellow graduates. More than 11,000 fans turned out for last year's Battle in Seattle event.



This contest, sponsored by Wells Fargo and Comcast, gives Western and Central supporters the opportunity to witness exciting, mega-stadium football between two legendary rivals. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for further details.

Your Alumni Association has arranged for special group rates for overnight accommodations on Friday, Oct. 7 and Saturday, Oct. 8 at the Marriott Springhill Suites in downtown Seattle. A suite with a king bed and pull-out sofa (sleeps 4) is \$89; a suite with two double beds and pull-out sofa (sleeps 6) is \$104. These prices include a full breakfast. All suites are equipped with a refrigerator, microwave, separate living room and complimentary high-speed internet access. For more information, call the hotel directly at (206) 254-0500 or check online at [www.marriott.com/SEADT](http://www.marriott.com/SEADT). Reservation codes are BISBISA for king bed suites and BISBISB for suites with two double beds.

*Bill Farkas, executive director of WWU Alumni Association and director of the office of alumni relations, will resign in early June to take a position as CEO of Lambda Chi Alpha, a national fraternity established in 1909. "I am leaving with mixed emotions," Farkas reported. "I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with Western alumni, and I'm proud of the solid foundation we have built together."*

## \$100,000 for scholarships

By Kathleen Howard  
ALUMNI RELATIONS

Since 1998, Western alumni have contributed over \$100,000 for scholarships ... and it was easy!

How did you do it? You purchased WWU vanity license plates. They're fun, they're easy to get, they announce your Viking pride and they're surprisingly affordable.

Over 850 customized WWU vanity license plates have been sold since this program was introduced, generating more than \$100,000. Money from this program has helped several undergraduate students pursue their dream of earning a college education.

It's easy to support scholarship by displaying a WWU license plate:

- Request a WWU customized vanity plate from a Washington State Department of Motor Vehicles title and tab renewal office.



- Pay a one-time fee of \$40 (standard for any vanity plate).

- Renew your tabs as usual (renewal cost will be pro-rated depending on the date of renewal).

Each year when you renew your tabs, \$30 will be added to your plate renewal fee; \$28 of the one-time fee and the renewal amount will go directly to Western's Alumni Scholarship Fund. This \$28 is tax-deductible, and your WWU license plate can be transferred to any car you own. It's yours for as long as you like.

Get a bonus. Send us a photo of you and your car with WWU plates and we'll send you a WWU Alumni license plate frame. Send your photos to Alumni Relations, 516 High Street, Bellingham WA 98225-9199 or email [kathi.howard@wwu.edu](mailto:kathi.howard@wwu.edu).

For more information, call a Washington State Department of Motor Vehicles office or visit [www.dol.wa.gov](http://www.dol.wa.gov). Or call the WWU Alumni Relations Office at (360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885.

**\$100,000 is a nice round figure, impressive and very much appreciated. But we could easily double that amount. Are you up for the challenge?**



**Olympia**  
photo credit: Nick Bond  
WWU alumni volunteers from the Olympia area removed ivy and groomed trails at Priest Point Park.



**Portland/Vancouver**  
photo credit: Joanna Schalk  
WWU alumni from Portland/Vancouver spent Volunteer Day cleaning Starkey habitat areas.



**San Diego**  
photo credit: Tim Michel  
San Diego Chapter volunteers cleared areas in popular Mission Trails Park.

## WWU alumni clean up on Volunteer Day

By Susan Bakse  
ALUMNI RELATIONS

Western alumni marked the beginning of this year's National Volunteer Week with a program on Saturday, April 16 that put volunteers to work in their communities.

By participating, alumni made meaningful contributions in their home communities, enjoyed time together with friends and family in a casual atmosphere, and enhanced Western's image in their hometown areas.

As a way of saying "thank you," your WWU Alumni Association provided each volunteer (family and friends included) with a distinctive WWU alumni T-shirt.

The Volunteer Day alumni team program was introduced last year, with alumni teams participating in four communities. The program was expanded this year to include six different locations. Projects focused on trail maintenance and beautification of the following area parks and natural habitat areas:

- South Bay Trail (Bellingham),
- Priest Point Park (Olympia),
- Mission Trails Park (San Diego),
- Starkey Property (Vancouver/Portland),
- Randall Park (Yakima).

Due to rain, a scheduled clean up of the Green Lake Habitat Area in Seattle was postponed to May 21.

"Inspire by Example" was the theme of the 2005 National Volunteer Week. "That's something WWU alumni do on a regular basis. We're very proud of the contributions Western graduates are making to their communities," says Bill Farkas, Alumni Relations director.

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 and is sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation.



# ACCENT on Alumni



photo credit: Alumni Relations  
The theme for this year's ski trip to Big White Resort in British Columbia was Hawaiian. Forty-two alumni, family and friends participated.

## Alumni Happenings

### Supporting scholarship

On May 14, the **San Diego WWU Alumni Chapter** will host a private tour of the wild animal park at the San Diego Zoo, with the proceeds going toward completion of an endowed scholarship established by the chapter. A special thank you goes to WWU parents, **David and Robin Sheriff**, who worked with the park's administration to secure complimentary passes and parking for all WWU alumni and their family members. Admission will be by donation. We hope you, your family and friends will join us on this fun adventure in the wild!

### Networking

The month of June brings several alumni events to areas in **Northern California**. Your Alumni Association will host three networking/happy hours and a special barbecue complete with Northwest salmon and wines from Washington state.

Dates and locations for the networking/happy hours are Monday, June 13 (6 p.m.) in San Jose, Tuesday, June 14 (6 p.m.) in San Francisco and Wednesday, June 15 (6 p.m.) in Santa Rosa.

The salmon barbecue dinner will be held at the home of **Gene and Ann Langille** on Friday, June 17 (6:30 pm) in Point Richmond, just north of San Francisco. Mark your calendars now, and watch for your invitation.

### Cheering our team

In December, the **Viking men's basketball team** traveled to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to compete in the High Desert Classic. Alumni, parents and die-hard fans from Washington, California and Nevada attended to cheer our team. Viking fans rallied at the Hard Rock Café before the Saturday night game and enjoyed a dinner and visit from head basketball coach Brad Jackson. The event was sponsored by the WWU Alumni Association.

### Skiing in B.C.

The 42 alumni, family and friends who participated in your **Alumni Association's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Ski Trip to Big White Resort** in British Columbia enjoyed a perfect weekend for skiing. The Hawaiian theme we celebrated was definitely south of the Canadian and continental U.S. borders, but the weather lived up to our vision. All enjoyed Saturday's tropical nights après ski party.

The annual ski trip takes place on Presidents' Day weekend in February. The ski package includes deluxe motor coach transportation, two nights on the mountain at Big White Resort, a two-day ski pass and an après ski party. If you are interested in receiving information about next year's trip, email kristie.lundstrom@wwu.edu.

## Golden VIKINGS are coming back to school

5-day reunion planned July 13 – 17

The Golden Vikings Reunion Committee has planned the first ever five-day reunion for alumni who graduated in 1955 or earlier. This is an event that will rekindle friendships and great memories, so save the dates on your calendar (Wednesday, July 13 through Sunday, July 17) and make plans to join us on campus.

All Golden Vikings are invited to stay at Edens Hall during the reunion. Please call to make your reservation.

The 2005 annual 50-year reunion will include workshops offered by Woodring College of Education, a history cruise on Bellingham Bay, campus/community tours, opportunities to attend WWU Summer Stock performances, and an art walk.

Your invitation will arrive in May. If you do not receive information about the reunion and would like to attend, please contact Kristie Lundstrom at (360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885 or email kristie.lundstrom@wwu.edu.



photo credit: Alumni Relations  
The Golden Vikings Reunion Committee has met several times this year to plan the first ever five-day Golden Vikings Reunion. Pictured from left to right are Danny Beatty ('55), Joan Wolgemuth ('55), Jim Shook ('51), Arthur Heald ('54), Persis Shook ('50), Ruby Johnson Smith ('51), Don Davis ('52), Kappy McMullen Britain ('52) and Roger Pederson ('51).

Stay connected at [www.wwualumni.com](http://www.wwualumni.com)

# Your

## FAVORITE PLACE

Where did you go on campus to spend an afternoon reading? To catch some extra Zzzzzs or rays of sun? To compare notes with study partners?

Perhaps your favorite place was somewhere shared, the place you and your friends always gathered. Perhaps it was a very private place, reserved for those

times when you needed space alone. Or perhaps it was a space known only to you and to one special friend.

Please tell us about your favorite place on campus. Send your story and photos to [alumni@wwu.edu](mailto:alumni@wwu.edu) or mail to WWU Alumni Association, 516 High Street, AL 100, Bellingham WA 98225.



David Scherrer / WWU Publishing Services



# CALENDAR 2005

## May

- 11 **Juneau Alumni and Parents' Dinner**, 6 p.m., The Hangar on the Wharf, Juneau, Alaska
- 12 **Alumni Reception** preceding "A Passion for Equity: Teaching and Leading for Social Justice" workshop presentation by Gary Howard, 4:30 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. lecture, on campus
- 13 **Alumni and Parents' Dinner**, 6 p.m., Petroleum Club of Alaska, Anchorage, Alaska
- 14 **Alumni Whale Watching Trip** aboard Victoria Clipper, 7:45 a.m. to 7 p.m., leaving from Seattle's downtown waterfront to Friday Harbor (round trip)
- 14 **Alumni Wild Animal Park Adventure**, San Diego, Calif.
- 18 **"Cider House Rules" Opening Night Dinner**, 5:30 p.m., on campus
- 21 **Golden Vikings Phonathon**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on campus
- 28 **Ski to Sea Parade** (WWU alumni entry), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bellingham
- 29 **Ski to Sea Race** (WWU alumni teams), Mount Baker to Bellingham Bay

## June

- 10 **Alumni Association** hosts awards ceremony and reception for outstanding graduates, 7 p.m., WWU campus
- 11 **Spring Commencement**, on campus
- 13 **Alumni Networking/Happy Hour**, 6 p.m., San Jose, Calif.
- 14 **Alumni Networking/Happy Hour**, 6 p.m., San Francisco, Calif.
- 15 **Alumni Networking/Happy Hour**, 6 p.m., Santa Rosa, Calif.
- 17 **Alumni Northwest Salmon Barbecue**, 6:30 p.m., Point Richmond, Calif.
- 25 **Alumni Hike** (with guide), 11 a.m., Whatcom County
- 25 **Alumni Tailgate Barbecue and Mariner's Ballgame**, 4 p.m. barbecue, 7 p.m. game, San Diego, Calif.
- 27 **Alumni Reception**, Washington Association of School Administrators and Association of Washington School Principals Summer Conference, 4:30 p.m., West Coast Grand Hotel, Spokane.

## July

- 7 **Alumni Kayak Trip**, 6:30 pm to 9 p.m., Lake Union, Seattle
- 8 **Alumni Networking and Welcome for New Graduates**, 6 p.m., Fox Sports Grill, Seattle
- 9 **Alumni Hike** (with guide), 1 p.m., Rattlesnake Lake Trail, North Bend
- 13-17 **Golden Vikings Reunion** for Western alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago, various events scheduled, on campus
- 17 **Alumni Kayak Trip and Picnic**, 2 p.m., WWU Lakewood waterfront facility
- 22 **Technology Alumni Reunion**, 5 p.m., tour and picnic dinner, McMinn Guitar Factory, Concrete
- 22-Aug. 19 **Summer Stock**, on and off campus theatres (see titles and dates below)
- 28 **Alumni Workshop: "From Backpack to Briefcase,"** speaker series by/for recent alumni, 7 p.m., Bellingham
- 30-Aug. 2 **Alumni Fishing Trip**, charter boat and overnight stays at Canadian Princess Resort, Ucluelet, B.C. Space is limited. Information and reservations: alumni@wwu.edu or (800) 676-6885.

## August

- 13 **Alumni Sunset Sail**, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Lake Union, Seattle
- 20 **Summer Commencement**, on campus
- 20 **Alumni Bike Trip**, 9 a.m., Lopez Is.
- 27 **Alumni Winery Tour**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., includes lunch program with speaker, Chateau Benoit Winery, Portland area
- 28 **Send-off Picnic for First-year Students**, 1 p.m., Leverich Park, Vancouver

## September

- 10 **Annual South Puget Sound Alumni Barbecue**, 1 p.m., Burfoot County Park, Olympia
- 11 **Send-off Picnic for First-year Students**, 1 p.m., Burfoot County Park, Olympia
- 17 **Send-off Picnic for First-year Students**, noon, Sand Point Park, Seattle
- 18 **Send-off Picnic for First-year Students**, 1 p.m., Luther Burbank Park, Mercer Island
- 20 **Convocation**, 7 p.m., on campus
- 25 **Nash Hall Move-in and Legacy Barbecue**, 10 a.m. move-in help, 12 noon barbecue, on campus (Nash Hall and Alumni House)

## Upcoming Events

- October 7** **Distinguished Lecture Series:** Johnpaul Jones, Choctaw/Cherokee Indian and principal of Jones & Jones Architects. Jones was the lead design consultant for the new National Museum of the American Indian (Smithsonian Institution), PAC Mainstage Theatre. Free, but tickets are required: <http://lectureseries.wwu.edu> or (360) 650-7545
- October 8** **Third Annual Battle in Seattle** and special alumni pre-game events, Qwest Field (formerly Seahawks Stadium), Seattle
- November 4-6** **Western's Really Big Weekend**, Distinguished Alumni Dinner, Viking football, special events all weekend for alumni, students and their families, on campus

## A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Written by Larry Gelbert and Burt Shevelove  
Songs by Steven Sondheim

This hysterical, perfectly constructed story by Larry Gilbert (of "M\*A\*S\*H" and "City of Angels" fame) features unforgettably zany characters and witty Stephen Sondheim songs that are both catchy and timeless. Pseudolus, a crafty slave, is promised his freedom if he can win the hand of the beautiful, but slow-witted courtesan, Philia, for his young master.

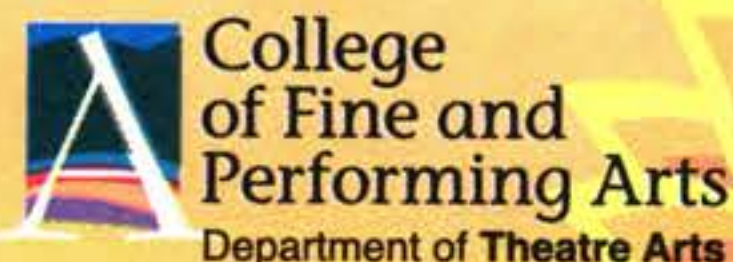
PAC Mainstage Theatre  
July 22, 23, 26, 29 and August 3, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20  
Summer Stock revival dates: September 22, 23, 24, 25

## Putting It Together

A Sondheim musical revue

At a cocktail party in New York City, two couples—one a middle-aged married couple, the other young lovers just starting out—reflect through Sondheim's songs on the complexities that make up modern relationships. Throughout, the proceedings are observed by an outsider who provides insight and commentary on the goings-on. Presented in cabaret format.

Mt. Baker Studio Theatre  
July 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 19, 21, 27, 30 and August 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19



# Summer Stock

Tickets are on sale now. Call (360) 650-6146.

## Proof

Written by David Auburn

One of the most acclaimed new plays in recent years, David Auburn's "Proof" was a hit on Broadway and won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award for Best Play. When a disputed mathematical proof is found among the abandoned notebooks of a brilliant but unstable professor, his daughter begins a search for the truth and is forced to confront her family's twin legacies of madness and genius.

PAC Underground Theater  
July 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 19, 21, 27, 30 and August 2, 5, 9, 12, 16

## The Foreigner

Written by Larry Shue

A fishing lodge in rural Georgia sets the scene for this story in which a shy man who pretends to speak no English hears more than he should about the evil plans of a sinister minister and his redneck associate and the complicating fact that the minister's pretty fiancée is pregnant. In a wildly funny climax, things go uproariously awry for the bad guys, and the good guys emerge triumphant.

WWU's Old Main Theatre  
July 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 19, 21, 27, 30, and August 2, 5, 9, 12, 16

## Anne of Green Gables

Written by Lucy Maud Montgomery

This production expresses the irrepressible hope of a young girl learning how to love and be loved. We glimpse the innermost joys of red-headed, fast-talking, energetic Anne Shirley as she moves toward fair maidenhood and in the process uproots the placid lives of Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert. Based on the turn-of-the-century novel by L. M. Montgomery.

Outdoor performances in selected Whatcom County areas.  
July 14, 15, 17, 20, 24, 28, 31 and August 4, 7, 10, 14, and 17

## Tickets & Information

<http://calendar.wwu.edu>

Alumni events  
(360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885

Athletics  
(360) 650-3109

WWU Box Office  
(360) 650-6146

Western Gallery  
(360) 650-3900

Wilson Library Hours  
(360) 650-3049